

FIRE STATION MISCONCEPTIONS

We are writing to clarify a few misconceptions regarding the new fire station. Based on news articles circulating in area papers and folks reading some of the Selectmen's minutes but not following through with others, it has been rumored that the Selectmen have approved of overspending the fire department construction warrant article by \$300,000. This is not the case, nor would it be allowed.

Here are the facts: Back in June, Ricci Construction proposed to the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief that the generator be upgraded to accommodate the existing sprinkler system. The Chief and Deputy chose not to proceed with the upgrade as they believed the power supply in that location to be reliable, as has been the case with other commercial buildings along the Rte 125 corridor. Later in the summer, a representative of the State Fire Marshall's Office was invited to the new Fire Station by the Deputy Chief and he informed the Fire Department that they not only need to have the sprinkler system tied into the generator, but if the Emergency Operation Center was going to be located in the building, they needed to be "Code 708" compliant as well.

National Electric Code 708, which went into affect in July of 2008, deals with Critical Operations Power Systems and would involve many additional requirements including creating a complete and independent emergency power system. Neither Ricci Construction nor our Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention was aware of this code. If it was determined that the new station would indeed house the EOC, the costs associated with being Code 708 compliant were estimated at about \$300,000. The Selectmen voted to hire a professional fire prevention consultant to look into the matter and make recommendations. The result was a proposal, which the Selectmen have approved, to have duplicate EOCs, one at the Fire Station and a second one at the Police Department at little to no additional expense.

As far as having the sprinkler system tied into the generator, we are moving forward with that and it will not involve any additional bond money and will not exceed our budget. The expense will be covered by moving some money within the operating budget, reducing the amount spent on furniture, utilizing "contingency" money remaining from the bond proceeds and a contribution from Ricci Construction.

In conclusion, we will not be returning to the taxpayers at the March 2011 Town Meeting asking for additional funds nor will we be overspending the approved \$1,657,700 in bond proceeds approved for the construction of a new fire station. We will be happy to present to the Town, by the end of 2010, a completed facility for our Fire Department.

Brentwood Board of Selectmen